

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A bioavailable cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, which comprises:
a freeze-dried γ -cyclodextrin/lutein carotenoid complex in a molar ratio of between about 0.5:1 and 10:1.

Claims 2-10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for improving the bioavailability of a cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, for animal ingestion, the improvement which comprises the steps of:
(a) forming a γ -cyclodextrin/lutein carotenoid complex; and
(b) freezing drying said γ -cyclodextrin/lutein carotenoid complex to form a freeze-dried γ -cyclodextrin complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried γ -cyclodextrin/lutein carotenoid complex.

Claims 12-18. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (currently amended) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said γ -cyclodextrin/lutein carotenoid complex is made for human ingestion.

Claim 20. (cancelled)